

BYE 8712-68
Copy 5 of 11

27 February 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Critique for OXCART Mission Number BX6853

1. Mission critique was conducted in the OSA Control Center at 1330 hours, 23 February 1968.

2. Mission Data:

- a. Mission Number: BX6853
- b. Date Flown: 19 February 1968
- c. Area of Operation: North Korea
- d. Mission Success: Successful
- e. Pilot's Name: Murray
- f. Aircraft Number: 127
- g. Primary or Spare Flown: Primary
- h. Takeoff Time - Planned: 0205Z
Actual: 0159Z
- i. Landing Time - Planned: 0536Z
Actual: 0538Z
- j. Time Enroute - Planned: 3+31
Actual: 3+39
- k. Departure Base: Kadena Air Base
- l. Landing Base: Kadena Air Base
- m. Equipment:

Job # 69B00404R
Box #1 Folder 72

(1) Primary: TYPE I, BIRDWATCHER, PIN PEG, BLUE DOG II, MAD MOTH, SYSTEM VI.

(2) Spare: Same as primary.

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

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3. Operations:

a. Mission Generation & Operational Support: Satisfactory.

b. Plans-Route (Actual vs. Planned): Satisfactory.

(1) Total INS Nav Time: 4+06 Hours

(2) INS Terminal Error: 6.4 Nautical Miles

(3) INS Spec Error: 9.0 Nautical Miles

c. Tactics (Planned vs. Actual): Pilot took off six minutes early due to B-52/KC-135 takeoff time conflict.

4. Weather:

a. Forecast vs. Actual: as briefed.

b. Observed Cloud Condition by Pilot: West Coast cloudy.

c. Comments: Forecast CAT II. 88 percent of programmed targets were cloud free.

5. Materiel:

a. Aircraft General: Satisfactory.

b. Aircraft Systems: Satisfactory.

c. Camera Systems:

(1) Quality of Take: Satisfactory. Exposure is good. Contrast is good. Exposure appears to be of sufficient spread so that specific targets can be highlighted when reproducing dupe positives from original negative.

(2) Resolution: Imagery is as good as previous North Korea mission (BX6847) except where degraded by atmospherics.

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(3) Camera Operation: Satisfactory. No malfunction noted.

6. Intelligence:

a. Target Coverage:

- (1) 65 of 75 programmed targets covered.
- (2) 1 SSM target covered
- (3) 69 of 120 COMIREX targets covered
- (4) 11 SAM sites, 8 sites occupied, 2 ID only
- (5) 88 bonus targets
- (6) Comments: The mission obtained good coverage of the southern two-fifths of North Korea. Haze and snow cover hampered interpretation in the mountainous area.

c. Significant Findings: None.

d. EWS Activations: None.

e. Take Movement:

- (1) Photography: Satisfactory.
- (2) ELINT: Satisfactory.
- (3) Comments: The pilot's film strip was misplaced in the Headquarter's Signal Center.

7. Communications:

- a. Message Traffic: Satisfactory.
- b. BIRDWATCHER: Satisfactory.
- c. UHF/HF Commo: Satisfactory.

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8. Significant Actions Taken:

a. DTFC has established procedure to preclude future B-52/KC-135 takeoff time conflicts [REDACTED]

b. Film strip delivery and accountability procedure is being reviewed and appropriate action is being taken to preclude recurrence on future take deliveries.

9. Outstanding Actions Required:

a. At alert briefing for next North Korean mission, determine location of U.S.S.R. fleet in Sea of Japan. Adjust EWS and camera turn on to gain maximum intelligence (Intelligence Division, OSA; Office of Scientific Intelligence).

b. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] OXCART Division;
Intelligence Division; Communications Division; Office of Scientific Intelligence).

c. Determine reason and insure corrective action for voice distortions noted on SYSTEM VI tape (Materiel, Avionics Division).

[REDACTED]
Colonel, USAF
Chief, OXCART Division, Operations, OSA

OXC/O/OSA/ [REDACTED]
Distribution:

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